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GERMANY WELCOMES GUSTAVUS

(The Advance of the Triumphant Swedes Carries Them to Nuremberg)

From a painting by Paul Ritter, of Nuremberg, in 1884

GUSTAVUS led his Swedes into the great German religious war at a time when Protestantism seemed utterly defeated. So fearful had the Protestant princes of Germany become that though they had prayed Gustavus to help them, they dared not help him. They left his Swedes alone to face all the power of the Catholic Emperor.

In this extremity Gustavus proved himself a remarkably able general. He met the Emperor's celebrated general, Tilly, and defeated him in two decisive battles, though the Imperial forces were double the numbers of the Swedes. Gustavus proved himself a statesman also and fairly forced his German Protestant allies to aid him. Then, having swept the German armies from his path, Gustavus advanced in a sort of triumphal progress across all the north of Germany and far into the south. City after city opened its gates to him, the Protestant towns welcoming him as a saviour, and the Catholic ones not daring to oppose him.

The furthest point the Swedes reached in this successful march was Nuremberg, which lies in the very heart of southern Germany. Their hero king was now in a wholly Catholic region; yet even there the people welcomed him not unwillingly, so great had his fame become, both as a soldier and as a wise and generous sovereign who might be trusted to be just to all men.







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PRAYER OF THE SWEDES AT LUTZEN

(Gustavus Before Leading His Troops Into His Last Battle Asks Heaven's Help)

From a painting made in 1894 by Wilhelm Rauber

AT Nuremberg, Gustavus knew that he was approaching the crisis of his career. He had completely defeated the Imperial German army; but the Emperor in his extremity had sought aid from Germany's greatest warrior, Wallenstein. This dark and terrible leader of men had been dismissed from the Emperor's service as a traitor; now he was recalled at his own price, and by tremendous effort he raised a new army against Gustavus. During an entire campaign these two remarkable military geniuses maneuvered against each other, until at length, each feeling that there was no further advantage to be gained, they hurled their forces against each other in the great battle of Lutzen (1632).

The troops of Wallenstein were wild adventurers, riotous followers of a master whom they half believed to be the devil. The men of Gustavus looked to their leader almost as a saint. He gathered his cavalry around him in a final prayer to Heaven, and then led them across the plain of Lutzen in a determined charge against the foe.

After a terrific fight the troops of Wallenstein were completely broken and dispersed in flight. But Gustavus himself perished in the moment of victory; and he had been the soul of his army. Protestantism and Catholicism both shrank back dismayed from that stricken field of Lutzen. Victory seemed as costly as defeat.







GUSTAVUS RETURNS TO SWEDEN

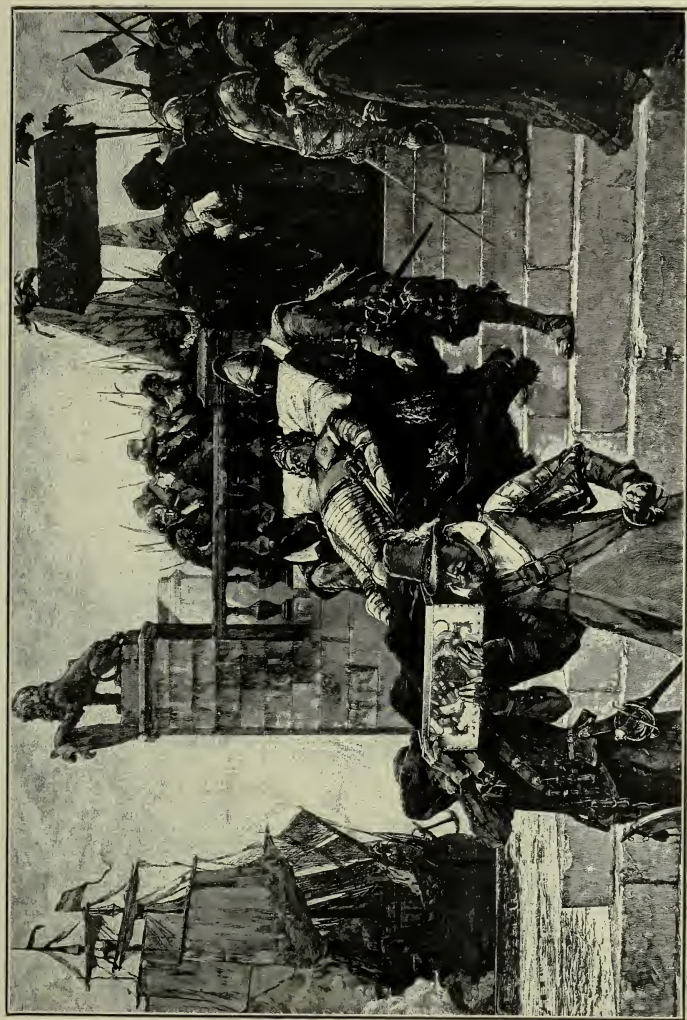
(The Body of the Hero King Borne Home by His Mourning Comrades)

From a painting by the master of Swedish historical art, C. G. Hellquist

WHEN the great Gustavus fell at Lutzen, he left his purposes only half accomplished. He had saved Protestantism and set it on an equal footing with the older Catholic faith in Germany. But he had dreamed of conquering a permanent peace, whereas now the religious warfare still continued. The devoted soldiers of Gustavus bore his dead body back to Sweden in solemn state. There it was received by his wise chancellor, Oxenstjerna, and by his still tiny daughter Christina, who became Queen of Sweden.

Oxenstjerna continued the religious war in Germany. So great had become the prestige of the resolute Swedish soldiers, that the German armies scarcely dared to face them. These grim, stern-faced veterans won victory after victory. But their numbers had been few even at the start; Sweden was but a sparsely settled land. And now it became evident that the ever-dwindling little army of Swedes could never conquer and hold all Germany. Besides, other nations began to fear these extending conquests and to unite against the Swedes. Even their Protestant allies in Germany deserted them; so that finally they consented to a general peace. They had saved Protestantism; but they had exhausted Sweden, and they had lost Gustavus.







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DENMARK'S GREATEST NAVAL VICTORY

(King Christian, Wounded, Wins the Great Sea Fight Off Coburg)

After an antique Danish print

THIS tremendous Thirty Years' War did not end without seeing Denmark and Sweden once more in opposition. That same King Christian of Denmark who had challenged Gustavus to war at the beginning of his reign, remained the warlike champion of Denmark through a reign of sixty years. As the long religious war dragged toward its close, and all the other nations began to unite in fear of the conquering Swedes, King Christian led Denmark also into the league against his ancient enemies. This action was dangerous and reckless, the sort of deed that always appealed to Christian. His land was at once assailed by the combined navies of Sweden and Protestant Holland. Christian met these dangerous foes with a much smaller fleet off the harbor of Coburg.

The Danes still sing with pride of the great victory they gained at Coburg. The battle was desperate. King Christian was sorely wounded in the head; but when his people thought him dying, he rallied and declared that God had spared him so he might save their country from destruction. Then after a solemn prayer he led his men back into the fight, and won it in the end. Yet he could not save exhausted Denmark from yielding to a ruinous peace, by which she surrendered much territory to Sweden.







THE DANISH VICTORY OF OLAND

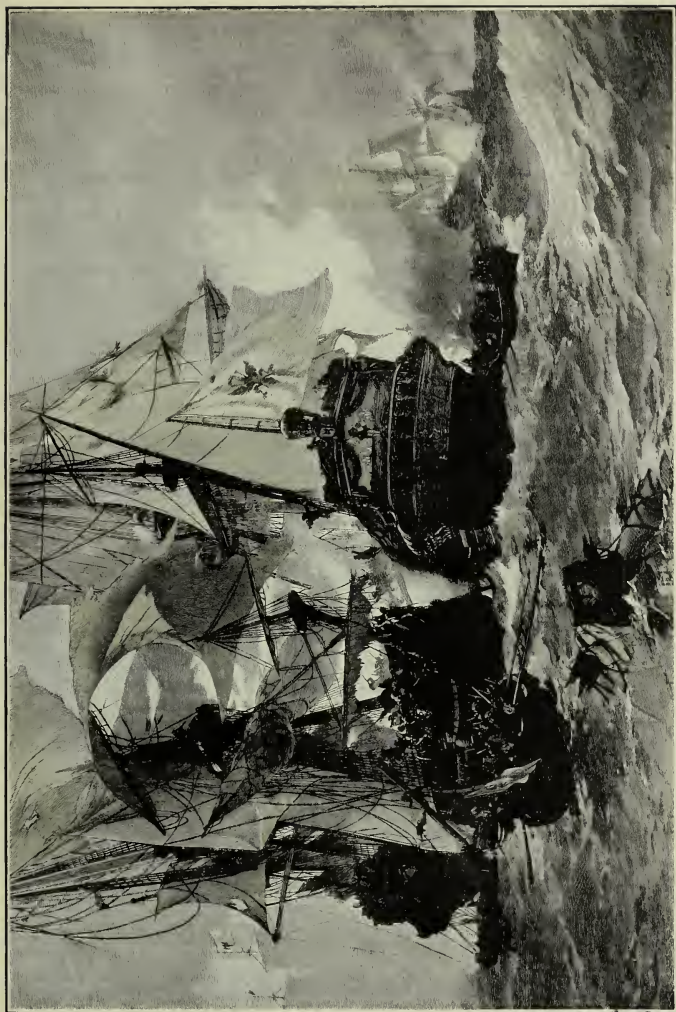
(The Danish Fleet Again Saves the Country from Swedish Conquest)

After a painting by the Dutch artist, Hans Bohrdt

THE religious wars which had exhausted all Europe came to an end in 1648. Yet the unfortunate division of the Scandinavian peoples into two kingdoms prevented the north from having peace. Denmark and Sweden still continued to exhaust each other. The Swedes continued to harass enfeebled Denmark. Up to this period Denmark had always included as part of her domains, Scania, the southern province of the Swedish mainland. This was regarded as an integral part of Denmark, which was the country of the Baltic's mouth, including the islands and the mainland on both sides of them. Now, however, the Swedes seized Scania. Denmark seemed about to be engulfed by her stronger rival.

Once more, however, the Danish navy saved the country, when its land forces were helpless. In 1676 the Danes, aided by some German ships, attacked the Swedes near the island of Oland. The Swedish flagship blew up at the beginning of the fight; and the demoralized Swedes were completely defeated. At about the same time the Swedish army was defeated by the Germans. Sweden lost most of the prestige which she had held since the days of Gustavus. Europe began to feel that the Swedes no longer possessed their former warlike skill.







CHARLES XII AT NARVA

(The Little Swedish Army Sweeps Over the Untrained Russian Hordes)

After a drawing by the German artist, Julius Schaber

AT this time Sweden held almost all the coastlands surrounding the Baltic. Only Denmark and a very small strip of German coast had not succumbed to her. But if she had really lost her military strength she could not hope to retain these lands. A dozen neighbors were only too eager to snatch them from her. A favorable chance seemed offered them by the accession in 1697 of a new sovereign, a boy of only fourteen, the celebrated Charles XII.

Hoping to take advantage of Charles' youth, Denmark, Poland, Saxony and Russia all at the same time seized upon some of his outlying territories. Charles met his many foes with the skill of a great general. Attacking Denmark first with all his strength, he besieged Copenhagen and forced the country to a despairing peace. Then Charles transported all his troops suddenly to the Russian border, where he had to face the newly risen genius of Peter the Great. Peter had gathered an enormous army of Russians to besiege the Swedish seaport fortress of Narva. Charles attacked him with a little army, not one-tenth the numbers of the Russian hordes. Yet such was the daring and skill of the young Swedish leader, such the confusion and fear of the Russians, that the latter took to almost instant flight. The Swedes hacked at the retreating mass and slew or made prisoners at will. Narva drew the admiring eyes of Europe once more upon Sweden and upon the new warrior who had arisen there.







THE SWEDES RECONQUER SCANIA

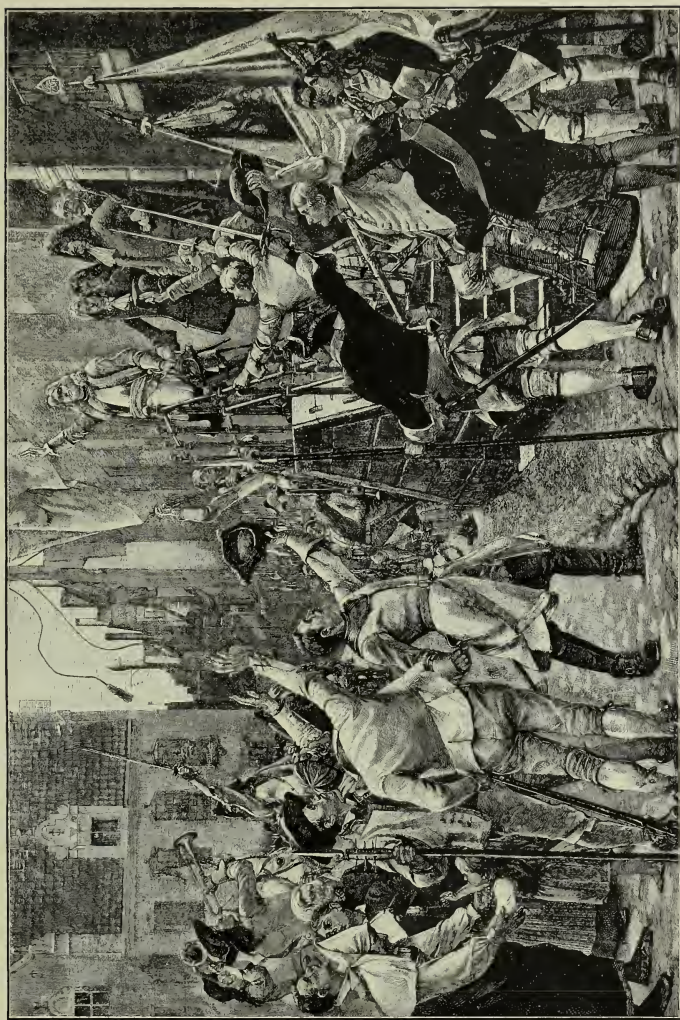
(The Soldiers of Charles XII Recapture Malmo, the Most Southern Port of Sweden)

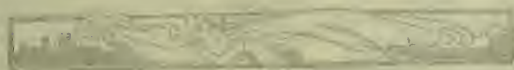
From a painting by the Swedish artist, Gustav von Cederstrom

THE warlike career of Charles XII was like that of a brilliant shooting star, blazing fiercely, but soon burning itself out to nothing. Charles defeated Poland and Saxony as he had defeated Denmark and Russia. He was for a moment master of all the north; but he knew not where to stop. Convinced by his easy victory at Narva that the Russians could not fight, he was resolved to make a complete conquest of their vast land. For this purpose he invaded Russia in 1707 with by far the largest army Sweden ever managed to send forth, sixty thousand men. Almost all this splendid fighting force perished in the Russian wastes. The great Czar Peter wisely refused to give them battle, but constantly retreated and lured them on, until at last they were utterly exhausted. Then turning on the feeble remnant, Peter crushed them in the battle of Pultowa. Charles escaped almost alone and fled to Turkey and thence back home.

While the Swedish king was thus wandering in exile, all his enemies again combined against him. The Danes invaded Sweden and seized their lost province of Scania or southern Sweden. But the little remnant of the Swedes whom Charles had left at home rallied gallantly to defend their land. The regions beyond the Baltic they could not save; but they fought back the invading Danes inch by inch, and finally drove them wholly out of Scania. The last spot recovered amid grim rejoicing was the southmost seaport of Malmo.









DEATH OF GUSTAVUS III

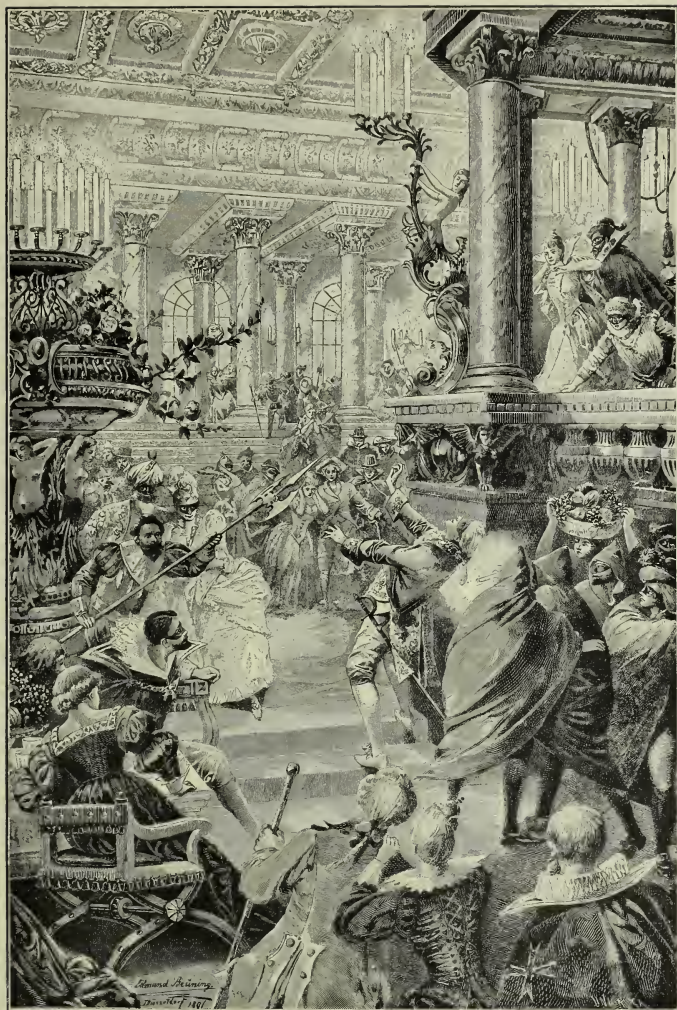
(The Regenerator of Exhausted Sweden Assassinated at a Masked Ball)

From a painting by Edmund Brunuy, of Dusseldorf, in 1891

SO low did the power of Sweden sink during the eighteenth century, that her very kings were selected by the foreign powers, France or Russia, which had become dictators over the north. The peasantry were impoverished by excessive taxation and sank to utter misery. In 1771, the Swedes again secured a king born among themselves, though of German descent. This was Gustavus III, who really tried to restore the country to something of strength and prosperity. In doing this he made many enemies, the most marked of these being his own nobles, who had thriven on the weakness of the peasants and who bitterly opposed the reforms of Gustavus. He also ventured to quarrel with Russia, marched an army against St. Petersburg and almost captured it. Then the French broke into their great Revolution; and Gustavus abandoned his other successes and made peace with every one else in order to be free to attack the French.

At this moment the bold king was slain. Gustavus had aroused so many enemies that the world has never known which of them it was that instigated his murder, though Catharine the Great of Russia has been most suspected. At any rate, Gustavus was shot in the back while attending a masked ball in his own royal palace. Several men garbed in disguises similar to that of the assassin gathered round him and so enabled him to escape in the confusion. With the fall of Gustavus expired Sweden's last chance of political power.









CORONATION OF KING CHRISTIAN IX

(The Danes Rejoice Over the Expected Additions to Their Territory With the New King)

From a photograph of the time

ENFEEBLED and exhausted Scandinavia made but a poor showing during the upheavals of the Napoleonic period. Sweden accepted as king Napoleon's marshal, Bernadotte; and his descendants still hold the Swedish throne. For aiding the other Powers in the overthrow of Napoleon, his former master, Bernadotte was also given Norway. This land was thus after centuries of union with Denmark, handed over to Sweden without the consent of its people. As for Denmark she had been so ill used by England during the Napoleonic wars, that in her resentment she clung to Napoleon to the end, and thus was deprived by the allies of much of her territory.

Denmark was still, however, to fight one more war. In 1863 a new king ascended her throne, Christian IX. There had long been a dispute as to the ownership and allegiance of the two half-Danish, half-German duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. All the powers of Europe had finally agreed that these lands belonged to Christian and that when he ascended the Danish throne they should be formally incorporated with Denmark. So the Danes hailed Christian's coronation with particular joy. But Prussia and Austria both broke their pledge in the matter and seized the disputed duchies. The cheated Danes refused to yield and fought bitterly against all the strength of Germany; but they were gradually beaten back and compelled to surrender the disputed territory. Denmark thus assumed its present size.







THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF THE EMPEROR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

FROM THE DEATH OF THE EMPEROR JULIUS CAESAR

TO THE DEATH OF THE EMPEROR VESPASIANUS
IN THE YEAR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
MDCCLXXII. AD 70.
BY
JOHN BISHOP, ESQ.
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, ESQ.
OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ESQ.
OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ESQ.
OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ESQ.
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IN TWO VOLUMES.
LONDON:
Printed by J. B. ALDINE, in Pall-mall.
1782.

THE HISTORY OF THE
REIGN OF THE EMPEROR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE



THE VICTORY OF PEACE

(The Danish Peasants Carry Their Land's Elections and Establish a People's Government)

From a painting by the German artist, Wilhelm Zimmer

SINCE that last hopeless little war of Denmark against Germany, all Scandinavia has known peace. Indeed, the Scandinavian peoples have grown too wise for war. They have recognized the fact that the inferiority of their numbers and the barrenness of their lands place them in a hopeless position as against the richer and more populous lands to the southward. They have realized also that earth has reached a point of civilization where "the consent of the governed" is really necessary for any government; and on that they base their hope that other nations will leave them to rule themselves.

Denmark was the first of the Scandinavian peoples to assume frankly this attitude of abandoning military resistance. For a long time the upper classes in Denmark retained partial control of elections, and their representatives continued fortifying cities and training regiments to arms. The solid sense of the peasantry opposed these feeble pretenses of readiness for war. At length, in 1901, the peasants managed to carry the national elections by such large majorities that they gained complete control of the government. They at once caused the country to abandon all military expenditure, and devote its funds to the industrial development of peaceful life. Norway and Sweden have since copied something of this sensible and progressive attitude.









NORWAY SEPARATES FROM SWEDEN

(Parade of Voters in Christiania Favoring the Separation)

From a photograph in Christiania

THE union of Sweden and Norway, which had been forced upon the latter state at the reorganization of Europe in 1815, continued for almost a century. Always, however, the Norwegians viewed it with discontent. They insisted on being treated as in every way equal to the Swedes, while the latter regarded the union as a conquest and Norway as a dependent province. This led to constant bickering; and though the Swedish kings did everything they could to soothe Norway's injured pride, the friction increased until at length the Norwegians in 1905 declared the Swedish king deposed from their throne. The Swedes were almost inclined to go to war; but fortunately the progress of all the world's civilization toward self-government prevented this appeal to force. The Swedish parliament declared that if Norway would hold a formal vote on disunion and a majority desired it, the Swedes would accept the situation.

So the Norwegians held their vote. All through the land they held processions such as the one here pictured, bearing statues of Norse freedom with the word *Ja* (Yes) to show how they meant to cast their ballots. The secession was carried by a practically unanimous vote, and Norway became an independent state.





remarkable battle ended with the surrender of the entire Danish force; and Charles, pressing forward, crossed without accident the "Great Belt" which separates Funen from Zealand. He was thus enabled to assail Copenhagen in a manner never before attempted, and to besiege it without the aid of a fleet.

The Danes, finding themselves helpless against him, submitted to a peace the most ruinous that had yet been forced upon them (1658). Their ancient possessions upon the Scandinavian peninsula were taken from them for the third time, and were now permanently joined to Sweden. The conqueror was also given possession of several of the Baltic Islands and the northern half of Norway. These latter concessions Sweden soon lost again, but the ancient land of Scania is still hers to-day. The treaty of 1658 saw Sweden at the widest extent of her territorial expansion.

So easy did the partitioning of Denmark seem that Charles X hungered for another slice, and within a year he discovered new cause of quarrel with his victim. Copenhagen was again besieged. The triumphant Swedes threw themselves with eagerness upon this last stronghold of their former foes and ancient oppressors. "We will divide Denmark first," they boasted, "and discuss the causes of the war afterward."

The Danish king, Frederick III, son and successor of Christian IV, found help in his extremity by appealing to Holland and England. They sent ships which aided the Danes in driving off the Swedish fleet; and a large portion of the Swedish army, caught thus in a trap without supplies, was compelled to surrender. Charles X carried the war into Norway. He had one or two successes there, and then he died (1660). The Swedish government hastened to make peace, resigning its hold on northern Norway, but retaining Scania.

Charles X was succeeded on the throne by his son, Charles XI, a child of four, and a long period of comparative peace followed between Sweden and Denmark. Only once was it broken during nearly forty years, and that was when the two lands were forced to take part in the great continental wars that opened the reign of the French monarch, Louis XIV. The Swedes, tempted into an alliance with Louis, sought to aid him by attacking the "Great Elector" of Brandenburg. They were badly defeated at Fehrbellin and elsewhere and lost much of the high military prestige which they had formerly possessed. The Danes were in the alliance against Louis, and their splendid fleet crushed the Swedish navy in a great sea-fight off the island of Oland, the Swedish flagship blowing up at the beginning of the battle. The Danish army however was defeated in a bloody battle in Sweden, so that the strife left the two nations about as before. The districts from which the Swedes were driven in Germany, were restored to them at the peace of Ryswick (1679), Louis XIV insisting that they should not lose by having been his friends.

Much more important to all Scandinavia during this period was the final break-

down of the power of the nobility. We have seen how absolutely they had held control of Denmark. Their opposition had brought disaster to the land under Christian IV, and again in the more recent wars by which Sweden had so nearly completed the conquest of the country. So embittered did the rest of the inhabitants become against these haughty oppressors, that in 1660, when the great council of the kingdom assembled in Copenhagen, there was a sudden, complete, and bloodless revolution. Deputations from the clergy and from the citizens of Copenhagen, the burghers whose sturdy defense of their city had saved Denmark from complete dismemberment, appeared before the king, Frederick III. They entreated him to assume absolute power, to withdraw all the privileges he had been compelled to grant the nobility, and to strike at the very root of the nobles' power by declaring the monarchy hereditary instead of elective. Frederick feared and hesitated; the nobles protested; but the burghers locked the gates of the city and insisted. In the end, secretly aided by the king, they achieved their purpose. The nobles consented to the new order of things, and Denmark became an absolute monarchy, Frederick's power being limited only by such laws and regulations as he himself arranged for the benefit of the three orders, the nobles, the clergy, and the burghers. The peasantry, it should be noted, had no part whatever in the change; they had sunk to the position of mere slaves.

For a time the country prospered under the new order of things, and even the nobles were content. But by degrees Frederick and his successor Christian V laid such heavy taxes upon these former enemies of the throne that they sank into poverty, and Christian completed their ruin by creating a new order of nobility from among the wealthy townsfolk and his German favorites. This new-born and more pliant aristocracy soon completely supplanted the old.

A similar revolution occurred in Sweden. The nobility there had been subdued by Gustavus Vasa; but they had gradually regained power, especially when the death of Gustavus Adolphus left them without adult monarchs of assured right to the succession. Almost the first public act of the child king, Charles XI, after emerging from his minority, was to induce the council of Sweden to join him in passing a law of "reassumption" (1680), by which he was authorized to take back some portion of the crown lands which had been so lavishly scattered by Christina. The early form of this law was very mild, but the king kept increasing its scope by degrees, until he had impoverished all the nobility. The great lords protested repeatedly; but the common people, who both dreaded and hated them, upheld the king, and finally in 1693, a law was passed which made Charles "the sole depository of the sovereign authority, and entitled to govern the realm according to his will and pleasure, without being responsible to any power on earth."

It was to this absolute power over a people who both loved and respected the race of their royal rulers that Charles XII, a boy of fourteen, succeeded on the

death of his father (1697). This is the Charles XII who has become so widely known to other nations as "the madman of the North." He was the last of the series of great military leaders who had raised Sweden to such heights of renown. Under him her overstrained resources gave way at last, and she was plunged into ruin.

A regency was established to govern for the young king till he should be eighteen. But within six months of his accession, he asserted himself, and compelled the annulment of the regency and his own formal coronation. At this ceremony, instead of waiting for the diadem to be placed upon his head, he snatched it from the officiating prelate and crowned himself. The people applauded him. They desired vigorous kings; such had protected them before. The act seemed, however, but a momentary spark of self-assertion; the youthful monarch made no use of his power. He devoted himself to hunting and other sports; he revelled in fine clothes; he acted like the mere boy he was. Observing this, three ancient enemies of the kingdom conspired secretly against him. Sweden's weakness had been fully revealed in the wars of Louis XIV. A feeble kingdom under a childish king offered tempting opportunity for regaining those ancient provinces that she herself had seized by strength of sword. Peter the Great, Czar of Russia, poured his barbarian hordes into Ingermanland to reassert his country's dominion over what was to be the site of his future capital, St. Petersburg. Frederick Augustus, King of Poland and Elector of Saxony, marched his armies into Livonia, once a Polish dependency. Frederick IV of Denmark attacked certain German districts allied to Sweden (1700).

The plotters had underestimated young Charles. He rose suddenly to the full stature of manhood, put aside forever his boyhood's amusements, and announced to his people that while he would never begin an unjust war, he would never abandon a just one without destroying the aggressor. With the military genius of his great race, he saw at once the weak point in the apparently overwhelming combination against him. Leaving the distant provinces to defend themselves as best they could, he attacked the nearest foe. He besieged Copenhagen, and so vigorously did he press the attack upon it, that King Frederick of Denmark abandoned his distant and ill-advised German expedition, to hurry home. The frightened burghers of Copenhagen paid Charles a large sum as ransom for the city; and the Danish king was glad to patch up a humiliating peace before worse befell.

Having thus detached from the alliance the nearest and most dreaded foe, Charles without loss of time transported his troops across the Baltic against Russia. Peter the Great at the head of eighty thousand troops was besieging Narva, and had reduced it to sore straits. But his army was an undisciplined mob; and, when they learned of the rapid approach of the celebrated Swedish soldiers, they

fell into panic. The young Czar himself deserted the field, leaving the command to a German general whom the Russians distrusted. Charles attacked them like a madman with scarcely six thousand men, and the Russians fled. Thousands were slain, and thousands drowned in a neighboring river. Finding flight impossible, the great bulk of the army surrendered as prisoners. So far did they outnumber their captors, that Charles, fearing they would recover from their terror, hastened to disarm them and order them off to their homes.

This battle of Narva (1700) fixed the eyes of the world on the young Swedish conqueror. The following spring he led his forces into Livonia, drove out the Poles and Saxons who had been harassing it, and pursued them into Poland. Three years were spent in overthrowing the Saxon rulers of that land, and reducing it to a condition of submission; but by 1704, the Poles were so humbled that they took a new king of Charles' selection. He might have had the crown himself, but he affected to despise it.

Had Charles XII but known when to pause he would have been a conqueror indeed; but his successes led him to believe he could accomplish anything. Finding that the Czar's forces still attacked the borderlands in his absence, and that the deposed Saxon king of Poland still annoyed the Poles from his retreat in Saxony, Charles determined to complete the destruction of both of his opponents. In 1706, he braved the wrath of the entire German Empire by crossing its borders and attacking the Saxons in their own country. So great was the acknowledged excellence of the Swedish soldiers, so widespread the terror inspired by Charles himself, that hardly any resistance was offered, and soon Saxony was completely in his hands.

Charles XII was now at the zenith of his power. All Europe feared him. He even exacted concessions from the Emperor. The famous victories of Marlborough and Prince Eugene had just broken the power of Louis XIV; and it was felt that should Charles elect, as his father had done, to ally himself with the French monarch, he might still restore the balance in Louis's favor. The Duke of Marlborough journeyed in person to the Swedish camp to placate the fiery king. But Charles had no thought of aiding France. He had fostered for the Czar Peter, the one enemy he could not reach, a savage and implacable hatred. He was resolved to subjugate Russia, as he had Poland. Beyond that, the vaguest dreams of conquest allured him. He was but a madman after all. He would dethrone the Pope, conquer the Turks, march an army over Persia—as Alexander the Great had done.

Against Russia he advanced in the fall of 1707. He had gathered nearly eighty thousand Swedish troops, the envy and admiration of the world. But Russia is an illimitable wilderness. Napoleon's half million of men were swallowed up in it. The invasion of Charles could only terminate as did the later and vaster one. All

that winter, all the following year, Charles advanced. The Russians fought and were defeated, fell back, and fought again. The next winter came, and the Swedish army had dwindled to a remnant of twenty thousand. They could advance no farther; but their leader, obstinate in adversity, would not retreat. He turned southward, seeking alliance with the Cossacks; but in vain. His troops suffered miseries indescribable, until the Russians put an end to the long agony by making a final successful attack. The Swedish army was overwhelmed by them at Pultowa (1709).

Charles, who had been wounded a few days previously, was carried through this, his last great battle, on a litter. He did all man could do, to urge his soldiers on; but the end had come. With only a few hundred followers he escaped from the disastrous field and fled southward into Turkey. The Sultan received him with honor, as who would not have welcomed so renowned a sovereign? When Peter, who had set his heart on capturing the person of Charles, demanded that he be given up, the Sultan refused. Charles even succeeded in embroiling the two potentates in war, and accompanied the Turkish army on a successful campaign, in which Peter in his turn was close to capture. A contemptuous peace was accorded Russia by the Turks, at which Charles, furious at his enemy's escape, raved in vain. The Sultan in dignified fashion ordered his too assertive and abusive guest to leave Turkey. Charles refused, and with his remaining followers barricaded himself in his mansion, defying the forces sent to evict him.

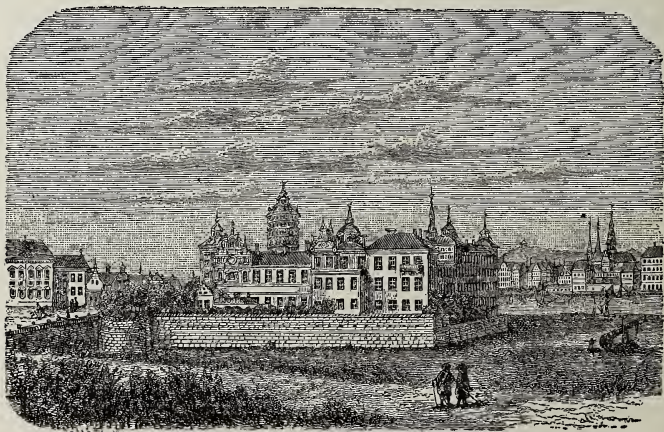
This disgraceful brawl was overlooked by the Sultan, whose admiration for Charles had not wholly faded, and the fugitive Swede was allowed to remain yet a while longer among the Turks. Then hearing that his country was once more being assailed by all his foes, he shook off the lassitude of despair which seemed settling upon him. Unattended and in disguise, he executed a daring ride across the breadth of Europe. Passing like the wind through the realms of his enemies, he appeared suddenly at the gates of his beleaguered fortress of Stralsund (1714).

Six states, Russia, Prussia, Denmark, Saxony, Poland, and Hanover, had united to seize what territories they wished from unprotected Sweden. The Swedes, notwithstanding the loss of the flower of their nation in Charles' ill-fated Russian expedition, defended themselves heroically. The seaport of Malmö, the key to the invasion of the land from southward, was taken and retaken. A Danish army was driven out of Sweden. Denmark was invaded and once more ravaged even to the border of Germany, where the city of Altona was burned. But the overwhelming forces of Russia and of the Germans soon enabled them to take possession of all Sweden's territory beyond her own peninsula, except the fortress of Stralsund and one other.

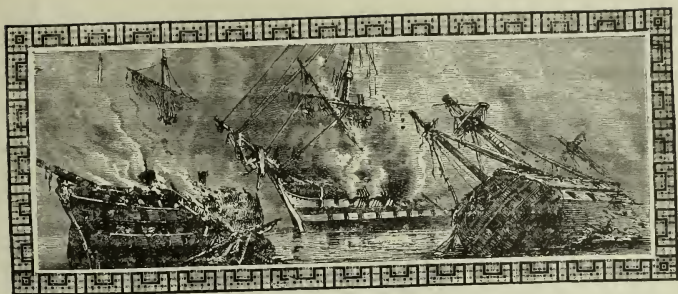
The reappearance of Charles reanimated his people once again; but it also made more determined the effort of the allies to end the war at a blow by the cap-

ture of the king. The siege of Stralsund was kept up with desperate valor upon both sides for over a year. Then, the fall of the fortress having become inevitable, Charles escaped in a fishing-boat to Sweden. Still he struggled; still his enemies encompassed him. His people supported him with the most heroic devotion. So bare was the land stripped of men that there was danger of a famine. The king resorted to negotiations. He attempted to detach Russia from his foes, by granting all she demanded. The project seemed successful, but in the moment of its completion Charles perished. He was attacking the Danes in Norway, besieging the fortress of Fredericshald, when he was shot down by an unknown hand.

His death ended the war. The exhausted Swedes made his sister Ulrica queen, with the express stipulation that peace should be sought on any terms. Most of Sweden's German territories were surrendered. The Russians, who had seized all the provinces east of the Baltic, withdrew reluctantly from Finland, but were allowed to keep their other conquests. Sweden, half depopulated, and reduced to the rank of a minor kingdom, abandoned her insane strife for empire. She sought to secure instead the prosperity which only comes with peace.



THE PALACE OF CHARLES XII AT STOCKHOLM

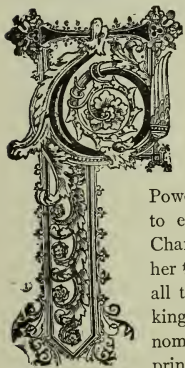


BATTLE OF THE DANES AGAINST NELSON

Chapter IX

THE UNION OF SWEDEN AND NORWAY UNDER BERNADOTTE

[*Special Authorities:* Bernadotte's Correspondence; Bain, "Gustavus III and his Contemporaries"; Brown, "Memoirs of the Sovereigns of Denmark"; Helfried, "The English Attack on Denmark"; Meredith, "Memorials of Charles XIV"; Sheridan, "History of the Late Revolution in Sweden."]



THE ancient glory and greatness of Scandinavia was at an end. From the time of the fall of Charles XII, the political history of all three of the Scandinavian kingdoms becomes a mere pathetic repetition of the hopeless struggles made by the small states of Europe during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to protect themselves against the aggression of the larger Powers. In Sweden this struggle had not even the glow of patriotism to enhance its interest. With the accession of Ulrica, sister of Charles XII, the nobles regained their power. Before admitting her to the throne, they made her agree to a constitution which placed all the authority in the hands of the diet or general council of the kingdom. The queen became a mere figurehead; and even her nominal authority she soon resigned to her husband, a German prince, who as Frederick I reigned from 1720 to 1750.

The only lesson to be gathered from his reign or that of his successor is the danger of party government and the lengths to which partisan animosity may go. The nobles, like every one else in the exhausted country, had become very poor; and finding the government in their possession, they began a disgraceful scramble for the official positions and their perquisites. Two parties sprang up nicknamed the Hats and the Nightcaps, the chief difference of opinion between them being as to which should be permitted to plunder

the government. Each side accused the other of treason, and the axe and the block were called into frequent use for judicial murder.

Both France and Russia, the two chief Powers then interested in the North, found it cheaper to bribe Sweden than to fight with her. Many of her officials were almost openly in the employ of one of the rival Powers; some of them managed to draw funds from both. In 1741, the French influence predominated, and the diet proclaimed war against Russia, a mad war for which the state was wholly unprepared, so that the Russian troops had no difficulty in seizing Finland. Part of it they retained; part was restored in return for the obsequious submission of Sweden. The Swedes selected as heir to their childless king a German prince, dictated by the Russians.

This ruler, Adolphus Frederick (1750-1771), followed the course of his predecessor in a comfortable indifference to the miseries of the land over which he possessed no real authority. The nobles clung tenaciously to their monopoly of the government. Even to suggest a change in the constitution was made a crime punishable with death. Sweden joined in the general European attack on Frederick the Great of Prussia in the Seven Years' War (1756-1762). So feeble, however, and even ludicrous were the military efforts of the Swedes that when, in the general peace which Frederick won from his enemies, arrangements with Sweden were proposed, the sarcastic monarch remarked that he had not been aware he was at war with that country.

In 1771, there came a change; King Adolphus Frederick was succeeded by his son, Gustavus III. For the first time in over half a century the Swedes had a king born and reared among them, one who could speak their language, could feel for their miseries and shame. Gustavus was resolved from the first to rescue his country from its thralldom to the nobility. Whether he was most actuated by patriotism or by self-interest, we need not too closely inquire. He was both bold and subtle; he took the coronation oaths to observe the constitution, but at heart he had already repudiated it. A pretended rebellion was raised by some officers in the army as a pretext which enabled the king to call around him a large body of special troops. To these he appealed eloquently for support, and on their pledge to follow him, he surrounded the house in which the diet was assembled, and forced from its members the abrogation of the constitution. Well knowing how both they and their laws were hated, the nobles had not the courage to defy the king; and in two hours the *coup d'état* was completed. Gustavus became an absolute ruler; but in accordance with promises made to his supporters, he at once promulgated another constitution, giving some slight degree of power to the people (1772).

Gustavus III was not a man to devote his life to a single purpose. He honestly endeavored to increase the prosperity and with it the military strength of

Sweden; but most of his time was spent in frivolities which he imitated from France. His court became a centre of fantastic extravagances such as it could ill support. He posed as a patron of the arts, had operas and plays, tournaments, masquerades, and fêtes of every kind. Taxes increased and became oppressive. Discontent grew loud.

In 1787 Gustavus seized a favorable opportunity for declaring war against Russia. Sweden could not forget her lost possessions, and Russia was at the moment in desperate strife with the Turks. Almost unopposed, the forces of Gustavus approached St. Petersburg; its inhabitants were in terror; but a number of Swedish officers, members of the nobility, suddenly refused to follow their king farther. Under the constitution he had himself granted, he could not begin war in a foreign land without the consent of the diet, and this had not been obtained. So his carefully gathered armament sailed back to Sweden, like that of the nursery-rhyme King of France which marched up the hill and down again. The nobles who had thwarted Gustavus were accused by him of being in the pay of Russia, which they probably were; and the people, whether they had approved the king's expedition or not, were infuriated against its betrayers. The leader of these was executed, and new laws were passed still further restraining the nobility and making the king almost absolute.

In the midst of these bickerings came the tremendous French Revolution sweeping over Europe with its sudden shock to monarchs, forcing old foes to become friends in face of the common danger. Gustavus made peace with Russia. He had vast and rather visionary plans of an alliance in which he himself was to command the armies of Russia, the German Empire, Sardinia and Spain, which with his own troops he was to lead against the French. A treaty looking toward this had even been signed by the German Emperor, when Gustavus was assassinated. He was shot down by a black-cloaked masquer during the revels at one of the royal balls (1792).

So many people might have found advantage in his death, that the true source of the murder has never been definitely placed. Duke Charles, the brother of the king, has often been accused of planning it. More probable culprits were the Empress of Russia, to whom Gustavus had caused such anxiety; or the government of France, against which he was about to move; or his own nobility, whom he had crushed. At any rate the assassin, no fanatic but a cool and calculating murderer, entered the ballroom, shot the king, and escaped under shelter of a group of accomplices disguised like himself. He was traced, captured, and executed; but whatever confessions or accusations he may have uttered, have never been revealed.

Gustavus IV, son of the murdered king, was still a boy; so a regency was established under his uncle, Duke Charles. Charles made peace with everybody,

including the French. He reversed at every point the policy of his predecessor, and even sought to wed the new king, his youthful charge, to a Russian princess. Gustavus, a strange, silent lad, journeyed to Russia at his uncle's command, consented to all the preliminaries of betrothal, but at the last moment when all were awaiting him, failed to appear for the final ceremony. He had learned that his bride was to be allowed to keep to her national faith; he insisted she must become a Protestant like himself, and the negotiations were broken off.

This act of the youth was characteristic of the man, honest but fanatic, and silent, almost sullen, in his obstinacy. He was declared of age at eighteen (1796), and became the bitterest though by no means the most formidable opponent of the rising star of Napoleon.

The French conqueror dominated all the western part of continental Europe, but Gustavus opposed him at every turn. This policy lost Sweden her German territories, which she only feebly defended; but as English fleets kept Napoleon off the sea, Sweden was not otherwise incommoded until Russia and France became allied in 1807. One reason for the alliance was that Russia could thereby seize on Finland, which she promptly did.

For over a year the Swedes struggled bravely against their fate; but Finland was conquered and their country invaded from the north. Denmark also declared war against Sweden. All Europe seemed eager to share the spoils of her dismemberment. In this extremity King Gustavus continued obstinate and unyielding; he would hear no word of seeking peace with either France or Russia. Believing himself the chosen instrument of Heaven to overthrow Napoleon, he expected the divine favor to manifest itself at any moment. His people protested; they declared him insane; at length they took matters into their own hands, and a party of officers, upheld by almost universal approval, seized and imprisoned the king. He was declared dethroned, and his uncle Charles was once more called to rule the country, this time as King Charles XIII (1809-1818).

Charles, as he had once done before, sought peace at any price. It was not now so easy to obtain. Finland and also Bothnia were surrendered to Russia; and Sweden was compelled to join Napoleon's "Continental Alliance," which forbade all trade with England. As the Swedes depended on England for some of the actual necessities of life, this treaty strictly carried out would have meant starvation. But except for its secret evasion by much smuggling, Sweden became a submissive vassal state to France.

Her dependence caused what was, perhaps, the strangest of her many strange experiences in choosing rulers. Her aged king was childless. He strove to propitiate his many enemies by selecting as his heir a Danish prince. This adopted son died; and the Swedes, in their abject submission to Napoleon, appealed to the conqueror to select whom he pleased, as their future sovereign. He failed to

indicate his choice with clearness, seeming to lean now toward one candidate, now toward another. The Swedes suggested that one of his own marshals might be chosen, and this also he approved. The diet was already met; there was much confusion and uncertainty as to the tyrant's real desires. Finally, thinking to oblige him, the Swedes elected that one of his marshals whom probably he least of all desired, whom he both feared and suspected, and with whom he was already secretly engaged in quarrel. The man who thus, as by an accident, became crown prince of Sweden, was Jean (John) Bernadotte, once a corporal in the French army, but risen to be an able general, a shrewd statesman, and a polished man of the world. He was ready enough to become a king, promptly accepted the proffered position, and abandoned his own Catholic religion for the Swedish Lutheran church (1810).

"Go then," said Napoleon to him ungraciously, "let us each fulfill our destiny."

Those destinies soon led them wide apart. Bernadotte, or Prince Charles John, as he was christened and thereafter known, became at once, as by the force of the man it was inevitable he should become, the real ruler and guiding power of Sweden. He seemed to bow to Napoleon's wishes. He even declared war against England. But secretly, seeing the necessities of his people, he encouraged trade with the English, and the war was a sort of *opera-bouffe* affair which could not long deceive the astute Napoleon. The Emperor in anger took away from Sweden all the German provinces which he had restored to her. This punishment seeming insufficient, he notified both the English and Russian governments that he no longer cared to what extent they might choose to plunder Sweden.

"Napoleon has himself thrown down the gauntlet," said Prince Charles John, now thoroughly a Swede, "I will take it up."

He made a secret treaty with Russia, whose Czar Alexander had also grown restive under Napoleon's insolence. To Alexander in his great war with France, the Swedish alliance, every alliance, was of vast importance. To secure the support of Prince Charles, he was even ready if necessary to restore Finland to Sweden. The two monarchs however, effected a compromise; it was agreed between them, that instead of Finland, the Swedes should be allowed to take possession of Norway, which Denmark had grown too feeble to defend.

With both Russia and England thus on his side, Prince Charles felt his northern peninsula safe against anything Napoleon could do, and openly defied his former master. He aided Russia greatly in her terrible struggle of 1812, and when Napoleon was crushed in the vast campaign of 1813 in Germany, it is said that the plan of operations against the French really emanated from the brain of their former marshal, Bernadotte. At all events, a Swedish army under Bernadotte took part in the stupendous war of the nations; and at its close the allies confirmed the

treaty he had made with Russia. Norway was taken from Denmark, and, with no consultation of the wishes of its people, was transferred to Sweden.

To understand the part taken by Denmark in these upheavals, we must look back a little. During most of the eighteenth century Denmark had sought for peace. She had avoided interference in the political affairs of Europe, and had honorably distinguished herself by her advance in civilization. The reign of Christian VI (1730-1746) had unfortunately been a period of religious bigotry, during which all amusements were forbidden, and the sombre king instituted a sort of Protestant Inquisition for the punishment of heretics. Most of the Danish sovereigns, however, were liberal and patriotic. Complete freedom was granted the press. In 1788, all the bonds which held the peasants in subjection were removed, and thus even before the Revolution in France, that unhappy class were in Denmark admitted to an equality with their more fortunate brothers.

During the Napoleonic upheaval, the peaceful policy of Denmark redounded at first to her advantage. Her navy had always been maintained in a state of high efficiency. Her people were all seamen, and her ships now shared with those of England and America the carrying trade of the world. But England soon displayed toward her the same domineering spirit that roused the Americans to resistance. Danish ships were searched and plundered at will of whatever England chose to call contraband of war. A Danish frigate was seized; and finally, despite every effort of the Danes for peace, England made war upon them, took forcible possession of the Danish East Indies, and without warning despatched a fleet against Copenhagen (1801).

Then followed Nelson's famous battle, in which the English have too freely claimed a victory they scarcely won. Though taken wholly by surprise, the Danish fleet under their admiral, Olert Fischer, made a glorious defense. Outnumbered, and with their ships anchored so that they could not manœuvre, they nevertheless fought so effectually that Nelson's superior officer ordered him to abandon the contest. When he persisted, the fight raged for hours; and though several Danish ships were captured, so battered were the English vessels that they were preparing to withdraw, when Nelson by threatening to destroy the ships and crews he had already taken, secured an armistice. The English admiral declared this the bloodiest and fiercest battle in which he had ever engaged.

Peace was reestablished, and for a few years more Denmark's commerce and consequent wealth increased with gigantic stride. But when, in 1807, Russia and France came to terms against England, it was evident that they would compel Denmark to join the rest of the Continent in antagonism to the common foe. Anticipating this, the English a second time despatched a fleet against Copenhagen, and with the threat of destroying the rich metropolis, demanded that the Danish fleet be surrendered into their possession.

The royal family fled from their Copenhagen palace, but the burghers and common folk prepared for resistance. British troops were landed and encircled the doomed city; Nelson's fleet bombarded it for three days. Then the commandant surrendered, and the unprepared Danish ships were given up to the piratical assailants. England has lauded Nelson to the skies as a hero, while she accuses the American Paul Jones of having been a pirate; and Americans, reading her literature, have been too apt to accept her verdicts. Yet no just judge can hesitate to say that Jones in his strength and solitude was the real hero, while Nelson and all the English lords and lawyers who abetted their country's assault on Denmark, were pirates, though perhaps driven to their criminal courses by necessity.

The same necessities of the situation, no less than her fury against England, now forced Denmark into alliance with Napoleon. She declared war on England and afterward upon Sweden, which under Gustavus IV was England's ally. Owing to England's command of the sea, communication between Denmark and Norway became increasingly difficult; and the plan of annexing Norway to Sweden, afterward arranged by Russia and Prince Charles John, was first suggested between England and Gustavus.

At Napoleon's downfall Denmark, impoverished and ruined by England, was the last of his allies to continue to uphold him. When called on by the confederated nations to surrender Norway, she had no choice and consented, being given some small portions of German territory in exchange (1814).

The Norwegians themselves did not yield so easily. For over four centuries, ever since the days of Queen Margaret, their land had been united with Denmark, while wars with Sweden had been frequent. They refused to be handed over tamely to the enemy. In a hastily convoked assembly, the people proudly proclaimed that since Denmark had cast them off and absolved them from their oaths of allegiance, they were a free nation, and such they would remain. Norway was declared an independent kingdom. A form of constitutional government was hastily drawn up; and the throne was proffered to Prince Christian, the Danish vicegerent of the land (May 17, 1814). Christian, afterward King Christian VIII of Denmark, accepted the offer on the same day; indeed, he had been a leader in the whole movement.

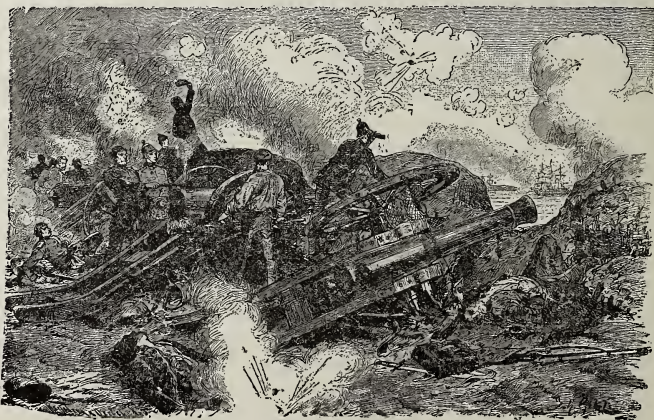
Thus Prince Charles John, hurrying back to Sweden to receive the gratitude of his people for the splendid province he had won them, found himself confronted by a nation in arms. He promptly led an army of thirty thousand Swedes into Norway to enforce the dubious rights he had acquired. The greater right, the right of common folk to speak for themselves, was little regarded in those days. Having given Norway to Prince Charles, the European Powers insisted that their mandate should be carried out. England lent him the aid of her ships to blockade the coast. Russian troops were made ready to join him if needed. The Nor-

vegians could see no faintest prospect of success. Still they fought valiantly; and Prince Charles, knowing how little value for Sweden the province would have if its submission were obtained by bloodshed, and if its obedience must constantly be compelled by force—Prince Charles proposed an armistice.

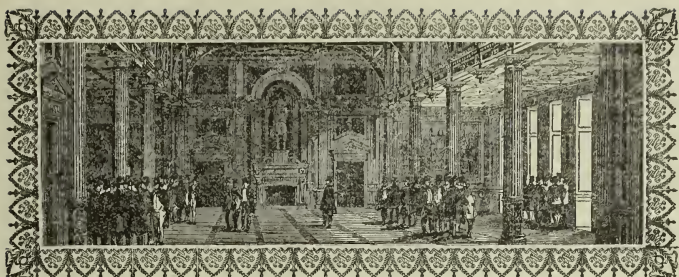
Speaking in the name of Sweden he offered to permit Norway to retain the extremely liberal constitution she had just established. All she need do was to accept the Swedish kings as her hereditary monarchs and to make such slight changes in the constitution as the Norwegians themselves would agree were needed to establish the union harmoniously. The Swedish assembly was to have no authority over them.

These generous terms were accepted. King Christian resigned his brief authority. Swedish commissioners came to confirm the form of the agreement, and before the end of the year Charles XIII, the old and feeble King of Sweden, was proclaimed King of Norway also, with Prince Charles John as his successor. The French corporal, Bernadotte, had travelled far.

The next year (1815), a formal Act of Union was drawn up and the Swedish government sent a declaration to the Powers that the treaty in Sweden's favor which they had promised to enforce, was formally abandoned; that Norway and Sweden were being united not under that treaty but of their own desire, "not by force of arms, but by free conviction."



GERMANS BOMBARDING THE DANISH FLEET, 1849



DEATH OF FREDERICK VII ANNOUNCED IN COPENHAGEN

Chapter X

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY AND THE PRESENT DAY

[*Special Authorities*: Bunsen, "Constitutional Rights of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein"; Gosch, "Denmark and Germany since 1815"; Laing, "Journal of a Residence in Norway"; Sorensen, "Norway"; Wraxall, "Visit to the Seat of War in the North."]



THE spoliation of Denmark, begun by England at the opening of the nineteenth century and continued by Sweden in 1814, was not to end there. Slowly after 1814 the Danes recovered their prosperity. The unhappy king, Frederick VI, who had sought to guide them through that period of tribulation, was led by the European revolts of 1830 to promise his people constitutional government; but this remained feeble and imperfect during his reign and that of his successor, Christian VIII. In 1848 Frederick VII succeeded to the crown, and amid the successful revolutions which were overturning thrones throughout that year, he retained the confidence of his subjects by promising to grant them complete self-government.

The immediate arrangement of constitutional details was delayed by a more pressing matter. The people of Holstein and also, though in less degree, those of Schleswig had always been partly German and not thoroughly in accord with the true Danes farther north. The use of the German language was spreading among the discontented, and their leader, Duke Christian of Augustenburg, began to show signs of a desire to reassert the ancient independence of Holstein. Moreover there had been a pledge made by the Danish kings of old that Holstein and Schleswig should never be separated. Schleswig had belonged to Denmark for ages, and Holstein

had for four centuries fully shared all the sorrows and vicissitudes of the remainder of the kingdom. How much, therefore, this sudden spirit of independence was due to the fostering of German emissaries, it would be difficult to say. Early in 1848 the State Assemblies both in Schleswig and Holstein suddenly demanded that their independence should be acknowledged by Denmark, as a preliminary to their joining the German confederation.

Two years before, a Danish commission had examined carefully into all the ancient documents bearing on the relation of these two provinces to the remainder of the kingdom. This commission reported that Schleswig was a fully and lawfully incorporated portion of the kingdom, lying as it did within the ancient wall or Dane-work built a thousand years before. Holstein they declared in a more dubious position. It was a fief belonging to the king and to his family by inheritance, but not necessarily a part of the kingdom. King Frederick, therefore, as far as Schleswig was concerned, refused absolutely to sanction its withdrawal from Denmark; and, as the rebels began seizing fortresses, he hurried the Danish army to check them. It was easy to expel them from Schleswig, where the people in general were divided in their preferences; but in Holstein the rebels had a regular army, which the Danes defeated.

Meanwhile however, the Duke of Augustenburg had appealed to Prussia for aid. A large German army joined the insurgents and drove back the Danes in turn. There was considerable diplomatic wrangling, and all Europe became involved in the discussion. Several battles were fought between the Danes and Germans in which the Danes gained a temporary advantage. Finally the insurgents were left to themselves, whereon the Danes defeated them at Idstedt and elsewhere and reoccupied the rebellious provinces (1850).

King Frederick celebrated this, the last triumph of the Danish arms, by conferring on his loyal people the self-government he had promised. A constitution was framed, giving them absolute liberty and authority, and to this day there are no people in Europe more wholly masters of themselves and their government than the Danes. At the same time, a general conference of the Powers was held at London (1852), intended to settle the Schleswig-Holstein matter. The rights of the Duke of Augustenburg were purchased from him by Denmark; and as King Frederick had no children, it was arranged that the ultimate succession in both Denmark and the provinces should pass to Prince Christian of Glucksburg, who is King of Denmark in our own day and who was a distant relative of King Frederick.

This arrangement neglected to consult the people of Holstein and Schleswig; hence it not unnaturally failed to make a final settlement of the dispute. When Frederick died in 1863, King Christian was not permitted to succeed in peace. The son of the old Duke of Augustenburg asserted his claim as next in succession

to rule in Holstein. Austria and Prussia, despite their agreement in the London conference, seized the opportunity of plundering Denmark. They supported the duke and sent armies to take possession of Holstein. Another war followed, brief, but desperately contested by the Danes against overwhelming numbers. Gradually the German armies conquered all the mainland of Denmark; and the new king, Christian IX, was compelled to assent to a peace by which not only Holstein but Schleswig and one other German district which Denmark still possessed, were incorporated in the German confederation (1864). The claims of the Duke of Augustenburg, who had caused all the trouble and battle and slaughter, were ignored entirely.

Denmark then enjoyed forty years of peace under King Christian. A long but by no means bitter strife was carried on between the two houses of the government, the lower house or "Folkething" objecting to all military expenditures as being useless for so small a state. In 1901 the elections turned overwhelmingly in favor of the party of peace and economy, and as a result of this the government was placed wholly in the hands of the economists. King Christian died in 1906 at the advanced age of eighty-seven, and was succeeded by his son, Frederick VIII. King Frederick died in his turn in 1912. He fell dead while walking alone in the streets of the German city of Hamburg. No one knew of his presence there, and his body was not recognized until after it had been carried to the common morgue. He was succeeded by his eldest son, King Christian X. Frederick's second son had already become King of Norway.

If we turn now to glance over the past century in Norway and Sweden, we find that they have also had their difficulties to encounter though, more fortunate than their southern neighbor, they have escaped the misery of actual war. Their union, consummated in 1815, caused constant friction between them. This was inevitable, if we consider the misapprehension under which the alliance began, the Swedes regarding Norway as a captured province to which they had been extremely, perhaps mistakenly, lenient, the Norwegians feeling themselves a free people who had deliberately accepted a king and some points of government in common with their neighbors.

The friction was slight at first, for Bernadotte, or King Charles XIV as he became in 1818, was a diplomat, clever at glossing over difficulties and soothing wounded susceptibilities. Norway was allowed to use her own flag, only it was not to be borne on distant oceans. She had her own army, her own assembly or "Storthing," and her own constitution, far more liberal than that of Sweden. Indeed, so democratic was the Norwegian government that, in direct opposition to the king, it passed a law abolishing all orders of nobility, saying the country was too poor to support them, and that the peasants were the only real descendants of the ancient Norsemen.

As Bernadotte grew older he grew more conservative, more distrustful of the progressive attitude of his people. He persecuted liberal writers and openly expressed his fear of assassination. Thus, though he had once been tremendously popular, and though he certainly did a vast deal of good in restoring prosperity to both Sweden and Norway, he was disliked in his old age, and his death was rather impatiently awaited. It came to him at the age of eighty, and his popular and liberal son succeeded him as Oscar I (1844-1859).

So freely did King Oscar sympathize with his people, and so fully did he grant all they desired of self-government, that the revolution which shook the rest of Europe in 1848 found no echo in his domains. He broke away from Russia, which had been his father's friend and chief support, and he relied more and more upon western Europe to protect him against Russian aggression. His policy was followed by his eldest son, Charles XV (1859-1872), and also by his other son, who next succeeded to the throne as Oscar II.

All three of these successive sovereigns, the descendants of Bernadotte, did everything they could to bring their two refractory kingdoms into a closer and more kindly union, but Norway always insisted on equality, Sweden on superiority. At one time, the struggle centred round the question of the flag, until the kings granted Norway as much right to her flag everywhere as Sweden had to hers. Then the dispute turned upon the appointment of a viceroy for Norway. She wanted none, since his presence implied that the sovereign's real home was in Sweden. The office was long left vacant and was finally abolished (1873); but the great central question of equality did not die with it. The persistent refusal of further concessions by the Swedish government and king finally led the Norwegian people to extremes. A popular vote was taken and resulted in an overwhelming majority in favor of dissolving the union. Thereupon the Norwegian Storting formally proclaimed the union at an end and King Oscar dethroned (1905).

Every means was tried by the Swedes to prevent this division of the two states. They even threatened war; but fortunately the world has reached a stage of progress where physical compulsion in such a case seems hardly a possible resort. Norway sought a king in other lands. Her throne was offered to Prince Christian, second son of Frederick, the King of Denmark; and in November of 1905 Christian accepted the difficult position. With his English wife, Princess Maud, a daughter of King Edward VII, he was royally received in Norway. The new monarch adopted the name of Hakon VII, as successor of that Hakon VI who was the last active independent king of Norway, the husband of the great Queen Margaret who established the union of Kalmar. Christian's son and heir has been named Olaf, after the son of Margaret and Hakon VI.

King Oscar of Sweden at once sought to establish amicable relations with the new sovereign family and expressed to them his hopes for their prosperous reign. Thus the two sister nations began their separate careers in friendship, yet there can be little doubt that King Oscar's private grief over the division of his realm hastened his death, which occurred in December, 1907. He was succeeded by his eldest son, as Gustavus V.

Thus it will be seen that there has been within the last few years a considerable shifting of thrones in the north and all three of the Scandinavian kingdoms have come under the control of men of a younger generation. A still greater change has been the rapid progress in democracy. In Norway, as we have seen, the peasantry have held control for a century past. In Denmark they seized control in the elections of a dozen years ago; and when King Christian X came to the throne in 1912 he at once proclaimed more liberal laws which were put in operation in 1913. Sweden has been slower but not less positive in her democratic movement. The narrowly restricted Swedish suffrage long gave the conservative upper classes overwhelming control of the upper house of parliament. In 1909 there was a laborers' strike which spread all over the country but failed because of government opposition. This so angered the lower classes that they insisted on an extension of suffrage. The elections of 1911 made the lower house of parliament overwhelmingly liberal; and this house waged against the upper house such a struggle as the English House of Commons recently waged against the Lords. Indeed, the English struggle was regarded by the Swedish liberals as a precedent. Labor strikes were renewed and finally, under the lead of prime minister Staaff, the people won a much broader suffrage, which now enables them to control the upper house of their parliament.

Almost the first act of the reconstructed parliament was to give Sweden woman's suffrage (1912). In this measure of widest democracy Norway had already shown the way, establishing woman's voting right in 1907, the second year of their country's independence from Sweden. Denmark also established, or rather, expanded woman's suffrage in 1913. So that now throughout all Scandinavia government rests upon the entire body of the people.

Thus in some ways the far north has become the very freest part of Europe. Her kings are indeed but the servants of the people; and her peoples are pledged to democracy and to peace. Both Denmark and Norway have abandoned all pretense of keeping up military and naval armaments for national defense; and while the people of Sweden recently complimented their King Gustavus by a present of money to build a new battleship, they have probably as little thought as their neighbors of ever again attempting war.

CHRONOLOGY OF SCANDINAVIA

B.C. 100(?)—Odin enters Svea-land and founds the dynasty of the Ynglings. A.D. 623—Overthrow of the Ynglings by Ivar Widfadme; supremacy of Denmark. 647—Harald Hildetand unites all Scandinavia under his sway. 735—Battle of Bravalla; Norwegian supremacy. 794—Ragnar Lodbrok slain in the British Isles; his dominion divided among his sons. 810—Gottrik the Dane attacks Charlemagne. 826—Christianity introduced into the North by Harald Klak. 865—Death of Anscarius, the Apostle of the North. 874—Settlement of Iceland. 875—Harald Haarfagr conquers Norway at Hafurs Fjord. 893—Gorm the Old opposes Christianity; his queen Thyra builds the Dane-work. 930—The sons of Harald begin the Norse civil wars. 974—Denmark invaded by the Emperor Otto II. 994—Sweyn Forkbeard makes himself overlord of England. 1000—Leif Ericson discovers America. 1000—Olaf Trygvesson overthrown by his jarls and Sweyn Forkbeard. 1002—Massacre of the Danes in England and vengeance of Sweyn. 1014—Canute the Great begins to extend his empire. 1028—Canute becomes lord of six kingdoms including Great Britain and all Scandinavia. 1035—Death of Canute and division of his empire. 1044—Magnus of Norway becomes overlord of the North. 1066—Harald of Norway attempts the reconquest of England, and is defeated and slain at Stamford Bridge. 1069—Sweyn of Denmark fails in a similar attempt; all Scandinavia sinks into exhaustion. 1130—The royal line of Sweden dies out and "peasant" kings are elected. 1147—Civil war in Denmark; the rivals acknowledge the land as a fief of the German Empire. 1155—Eric the Saint establishes Christianity in Sweden. 1157—Waldemar the Great defeats all claimants to the Danish throne. 1162—Waldemar proclaims a code of law. 1168—He captures the Wendish stronghold Arkona. 1182—Canute VI reasserts Scandinavian independence of Germany. 1219—Crusade against the Esthonians by Waldemar the Victorious. 1223—Abduction and imprisonment of Waldemar. 1241—Waldemar, dying, divides his kingdom; a century of civil war and desolation follows. 1319—Accession of Magnus Smek, last of the ancient kings of Sweden and Norway. 1340—Waldemar Attertag restores prosperity to Denmark. 1360—Waldemar Attertag plunders Wisby and so rouses a general league against Denmark, which he defeats. 1367—A rebellion drives Waldemar into exile. 1372—Waldemar is restored, but the Hanseatic League becomes the real ruler of Scandinavia. 1375—Waldemar's throne passes to his baby grandson Olaf. 1380—Margaret becomes regent of Norway. 1387—Olaf's death leaves Margaret queen of both Denmark and Norway. 1389—Margaret aids the Swedes in rebellion against their German king, Albert; defeats him at Falkoping; assumes the Swedish crown. 1397—Margaret establishes the Union of Kalmar,

uniting her three kingdoms. 1412—Death of Margaret; misrule of King Eric. 1442—His deposition accomplished in all three kingdoms. 1448—Karl Knutsson elected king in Sweden, Christian I in Denmark and Norway. 1497—Hans of Denmark and Norway conquers Sweden. 1500—He is defeated by the Ditmarshers; rebellion of the Stures in Sweden. 1506—Prince Christian of Denmark crushes revolt in Norway. 1520—Christian, now King Christian II, reconquers Sweden; the “Bloodbath of Stockholm.” 1522—Rebellion drives Christian from Denmark. 1523—Gustavus Vasa rescues Sweden and ends the Union of Kalmar; he introduces Protestantism. 1536—Protestantism established in Denmark and Norway by Christian III. 1593—Religious strife in Sweden ended by the “Upsala Resolutions.” 1611—Gustavus Adolphus becomes King of Sweden and wages successful wars against Denmark, Russia and Poland. 1625—Christian IV of Denmark takes part in the great “Thirty Years’ War” and is crushed. 1629—The Swedish king enters the war, and wins his famous victories. 1632—He is slain at Lutzen; the Swedes continue their successful strife in Germany. 1644—Christian IV wins the sea-fight of Colberg against the Swedes, but is forced to a disastrous peace. 1658—Charles X crosses the Danish straits on the ice and captures Copenhagen; Scania and northern Norway added to Sweden; her territory reaches its widest extent. 1660—Bloodless rebellion in Denmark overthrows the nobility. 1700—Russia, Denmark, Poland and Saxony attack Sweden; Charles XII repels them all; defeats the Russians at Narva. 1709—He is overthrown by the Russians at Pultowa. 1718—Death of Charles XII; Sweden sinks to a minor kingdom. 1772—Gustavus III suppresses the Swedish nobles and grants a constitution to his people. 1792—Assassination of Gustavus III. 1801—The British attack Copenhagen and fight a drawn battle with the Danish fleet. 1807—Russia, supported by Napoleon, seizes Finland; England seizes the Danish fleet. 1810—Bernadotte adopted by the Swedes as heir to their throne. 1814—He aids in the overthrow of Napoleon, and Norway is taken from Denmark and given to Sweden. 1848—Schleswig and Holstein declare independence of Denmark. 1850—They are finally crushed at Idstedt. 1864—Second Schleswig-Holstein War; the Germans aid the rebellious duchies; the Danes are defeated and the duchies joined to Germany. 1905—Separation of Norway and Sweden; Prince Christian of Denmark elected King of Norway as Hakon VII. 1907—Norway establishes woman suffrage; Oscar II of Sweden succeeded by Gustavus V. 1911—Extension of the franchise in Sweden, and triumph of the liberal party. 1912—Further extension of Swedish suffrage to women; sudden death of King Frederick of Denmark and succession of Christian X. 1913—Christian X establishes still more liberal laws and policy for Denmark.

RULERS OF SCANDINAVIA

SWEDEN.	750—Ragnar Lodbrok. ¹	NORWAY.	DENMARK
794-804—Bjorn Ironside. * * *	* * *	875—Harald Haarfagr.	794-803—Sigurd. * * *
993—Olaf the Lap King.	934-938—Eric Bloodaxe.	* * *	860—Gorm the Old.
1024—Canute of Denmark * * *	977—Hakon Jarl.	995—Olaf Trygvesson.	936—Harald Bluetooth.
THE PEASANT KINGS.	1000—Sweyn of Denmark.	1014—Canute of Denmark	985—Sweyn Forkbeard.
1130—Sverker.	1035—Magnus the Good.	1047—Harald Hardrada.	1014—Canute the Great.
1155-60—Eric the Saint.	1066-1093—Olaf Kyrre.	* * *	1035—Harthacanute.
* * *	1319—Magnus Smek (of Sweden).	1355—Hakon VI.	1042—Magnus of Norway.
THE FOLKINGAR KINGS.	1380—Olaf.	1387—Margaret.	1047—Sweyn Estridson. * * *
1250—Waldemar.	1397—THE UNION OF KALMAR.	1412—Eric of Pomerania.	1157—Waldemar I.
1279—Magnus Ladulaas.	1439—Christopher of Bavaria.	1448—Christian of Oldenburg	1182—Canute VI.
1290—Birger.	1481—Hans of Denmark.	1513—Christian II.	1202-1241—Waldemar II. * * *
1319—Magnus Smek.	1448—Karl Knutson.	1523—Gustavus Vasa.	1340—Waldemar III.
1363—Albert of Mecklen- burg.	1560—Eric XIV.	1568—John III.	1375—Olaf.
1397—Margaret.	1592—Sigismund of Poland.	1600—Charles IX.	1387—Margaret.
1397—THE UNION OF KALMAR.	1611—Gustavus Adolphus.	1632—Christina.	1523—Frederick I.
1412—Eric of Pomerania.	1654—Charles X.	1660—Charles XI.	1533—Christian III.
1439—Christopher of Bavaria.	1697—Charles XII.	1718—Frederick of Hesse.	1559—Frederick II.
1448—Christian of Oldenburg	1751—Adolphus Frederick.	1771—Gustavus III.	1588—Christian IV.
1481—Hans of Denmark.	1792—Gustavus IV.	1809—Charles XIII.	1648—Frederick III
1513—Christian II.	(of Norway)—1815	1818—Charles John XIV (Bernadotte).	1670—Christian V.
1523—Gustavus Vasa.	1844—Oscar I.	1859—Charles XV.	1699—Frederick IV.
1560—Eric XIV.	1872—Oscar II.	1905—Hakon VII	1730—Christian VI.
1568—John III.	1907—Gustavus V		1746—Frederick V.
1592—Sigismund of Poland.			1766—Christian VII.
1600—Charles IX.			1808—Frederick VI.
1611—Gustavus Adolphus.			1839—Christian VIII.
1632—Christina.			1849—Frederick VII.
1654—Charles X.			1863—Christian IX.
1660—Charles XI.			1906—Frederick VIII
1697—Charles XII.			1912—Christian X.
1718—Frederick of Hesse.			
1751—Adolphus Frederick.			
1771—Gustavus III.			
1792—Gustavus IV.			
1809—Charles XIII.			
1818—Charles John XIV (Bernadotte).			
1844—Oscar I.			
1859—Charles XV.			
1872—Oscar II.	1905—Hakon VII		
1907—Gustavus V			



THE BATAVIAN CAVALRY

THE STORY OF THE GREATEST NATIONS

MODERN NATIONS—THE NETHERLANDS

Chapter I

THE EARLY DAYS

[*Authorities—General:* Davies, "The History of Holland and the Dutch Nation"; Grattan, "History of the Netherlands"; Rogers, "The Story of Holland"; Young, "History of the Netherlands"; Louis Bonaparte, "Historical Documents of Holland"; De Amicis, "Holland and its People" *Special:* Cæsar, "Commentaries"; Tacitus, "Germania," "Annals"; Pliny, "Natural History."]



O tale has ever been told more truly marvellous than that of the Netherlands. No people ever made greater sacrifices or achieved greater labors for the progress of humanity than the race inhabiting the "low countries." This appropriate name is given to the flat mud-plains occupied to-day by the States of Holland and Belgium, and formed by the deltas of the three rivers Rhine, Maas, and Scheldt.

To the geologist the Low Countries have a special interest, for they are the latest formed of all the habitable lands. There the scientist can see our modern world in the making. In Roman days the possession of the district was still disputed between earth and ocean, and the Titanic strife

has only lately been decided in earth's favor by the intervention of the pigmy, man.

One can scarcely speak of the beginning of things in the Netherlands without quoting Pliny, that shrewd old Roman commentator upon the history of beasts and men. He says, "There the ocean pours in its flood twice every day, and produces a perpetual uncertainty whether the country may be considered as a part of the continent or the sea. The wretched inhabitants take refuge on the sand-hills or in little huts, which they construct on the summits of lofty stakes, whose elevation is conformable to that of the highest tides. When the sea rises, they appear like navigators; when it retires, they seem as though they had been shipwrecked. They subsist on the fish left by the reflux waters, and these fish they catch in nets formed of rushes or seaweed. Neither tree nor shrub is visible on these shores. The drink of the people is rain water which they preserve with great care; their fuel, a sort of turf, which they gather and form with the hand. And yet," he concludes in a burst of arrogant amazement, "these unfortunate beings dare to complain against their fate, when they fall under the power and are incorporated with the empire of Rome."

The same traits that Pliny saw, one sees to-day among the Dutch peasantry, who still patiently toil to snatch from the sea a hard-won sustenance. And the same resolute defiance that puzzled the haughty Roman has astounded many a conqueror since. Age after age these dwellers on the bleak sand dunes have preferred liberty above comfort, above wealth, and even above life itself.

Cæsar, writing about a century before Pliny, gives us our earliest glimpse at these Netherlanders. He found the district occupied by tribes partly Gallic, partly German, the fiercest fighters he had anywhere encountered. The southern, more Gallic region having been longer snatched from the sea, was covered with a vast, dense forest, amid whose twilight deeps he fought ferocious tribes. Among them were the Nervii, who saw resistance hopeless yet refused all submission and were well nigh exterminated; and the Belgæ, whose name became a general term for the entire region, whence our modern "Belgium."

Farther north Cæsar found the Batavians or people of the *bet-aww* (good meadow land) the group of islands formed by the diverging mouths of the Rhine. From them Holland (hole-land, hollow-land) was long called the Batavian Republic.* These Batavians in their impenetrable swamps were never really mastered by the Romans. They became allies of the great conquerors, famous as the dashing "Batavian cavalry." From them was drawn the trusted body guard of Augustus, the nucleus of the Prætorian guard.

Beyond the Rhine, the strange half-land, half-water region was occupied by the Frisians, a wild Germanic race who, like the Batavians, became the dependent

*Some etymologists derive the name from holt-land or woodland.

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